



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 7, 2002

**Contact:** Tracy Dunne  
916/445-6687

**REPORT SHOWS SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN CHILD ABUSE  
WHERE GO SERV PROGRAM PROVIDES IN-HOME SERVICES**

*Incidents of Child Abuse Decrease by 24 Percent in At-Risk Homes*

**SACRAMENTO** – In a joint press conference at the State Capitol, the California Health and Human Services Agency, The Child Abuse Prevention Council and the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) today announced a 24 percent decrease in incidents of child abuse where AmeriCorps members, through GO SERV, provided in-home services to families with a history of child abuse or neglect.

"This significant decrease proves that education and nurturing family relationships play a key role in ensuring that California children are being raised in safe environments," Executive Director for GO SERV, Chuck Supple said. "This study shows California's strong commitment to protect children and provide them with the nurturing environment needed for them to succeed."

In October 2000, GO SERV, through nearly \$3.5 million annually for the next three years, funded the California Alliance for Prevention (CAP). The California Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse Prevention provides \$1 million over 3 years. CAP, the first program of its kind in the nation, is a pilot program designed to reduce child abuse and neglect. The Child Abuse Prevention Council is the lead agency that works with 19 California counties to implement the program. In the first year of the program, 377 AmeriCorps members served 20,000 families by providing in-home visitation services. Members provided families with parenting education services, child development information, and assistance in obtaining health insurance. They also helped families with finding child care, pre-school, adult education and employment services, as well as legal and other social services when needed.

"There is no more dramatic and important impact an AmeriCorps program has had than the Child Abuse Prevention Council members' success in reducing child abuse and neglect," Executive Director Supple said.

In October 2001, CAP reported a 24 percent decrease in child abuse and neglect where AmeriCorps members provided in-home visitation services to at-risk families and their children. These families had formerly been reported to have substantiated and unsubstantiated

allegations of abuse and neglect through Child Protective Services (CPS). The families that constitute the 24 percent represent closed cases with CPS.

#####